

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 ACDA-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SSO-00 /090 W

----- 014234

R 231221Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 783

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 226

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: IRA CEASE FIRE EFFECTIVE

REF: BELFAST 225

1. THE ELEVEN-DAY CEASE FIRE ANNOUNCED BY PROVISIONAL IRA CAME INTO EFFECT IN NORTHERN IRELAND AT 0001 HOURS LOCAL DEC. 23. THE ONLY VIOLENT INCIDENT REPORTED AFTER THAT TIME WAS SHOOTING DEATH OF WOMAN AT ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE (UVF) DRINKING CLUB BELFAST AT ABOUT 0030. PROVISIONAL IRA HAS NOT RPT NOT CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY.

2. VIOLENCE AND ECUMENICAL PEACE DEMONSTRATION DOMINATED HOURS LEADING UP TO CEASE FIRE DEADLINE. BOMBING BEGAN CITY CENTER BELFAST DURING DEC. 20 EVENING RUSH HOUR AND CONTINUED THROUGHOUT PROVINCE OVER WEEKEND. ONE MAN A CATHOLIC MARRIED TO A PROTESTANT WAS VICTIM SECTARIAN ASSASSINATION BELFAST EARLY HOURS DEC. 21. EXECUTION CLAIMED BY PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN "PROTESTANT AVENGER GROUP". SOME 10,000 PEOPLE ALL DEMONINATIONS EXCEPT POSSIBLY FREE PRESBYTERIANS MARCHED FOUR DIFFERENT ROUTES TO ASSEMBLE BELFAST CITY HALL DEC. 22 TO PRAY FOR PEACE. IMPRESSIVE DEMONSTRATION WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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ORGANIZED BY PEOPLE TOGETHER GROUP AND CLERGYMEN. DEMONSTRATION

RECEIVED CABLES OF SUPPORT FROM CARDINAL TERENCE COOK AND
ARCHBISHOP CANTERBURY AND WESTMINSTER.

3. POST-CEASEFIRE SECURITY ACTIVITIES APPEAR DIMINISHED.
TOUR REPUBLICAN AREAS EARLY DEC. 23 REVEALED THERE FEWER
FOOT PATROLS AND ARMY ROAD BLOCKS THAN USUAL AND BELFAST
CITY CENTER BEING FLOODED BY CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS. ALL INDICATIONS
ARE THAT RETAIL MERCHANTS WILL ENJOY LARGEST VOLUME SALES IN
HISTORY.

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